(b) if so, the details of the proposed programme relating to FBR; and

(c) the importance and application of the FBR programme for developmental activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is under construction at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. PFBR is scheduled to attain criticality around September 2010. The Department of Atomic Energy has plans to build four more Fast Breeder Reactors of 500 MWe capacity by the year 2020.

(c) The Fast Breeder Reactor programme represents the second stage of the three stage nuclear power programme of the department and is intended to enhance the utilisation of the existing uranium resources in our country. The FBRs have an electricity potential of 42,000 GWe year. The FBR programme aims to provide energy security to our country in the long run.

Mineral deposits on the coast of Tamil Nadu

2478. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that richest deposit of fine minerals had been brought to the coast of Nagapattanam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) how much percentage of Tamil Nadu coast has been reported to have received new mineral deposits; and

(c) the steps Government propose to protect these mineral deposits on the east and west coast of the country after the Tsunami disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is no substantial enhancement of heavy minerals deposits in the coast of Nagapattanam as a result of the Tsunami.

(b) Along the coastal stretches of Tamil Nadu, it is seen that the deposition of heavy minerals due to Tsunami is patchy, inconsistent and with a maximum thickness of 30—40 cm. In some instances, the Tsunami waves have destroyed the existing concentrations in dunes and deposited them inland, thereby relocating the existing deposits.

(c) It is not practicable to protect these mineral deposits spread over large area. Considering the vast resources of these mineral, the Government of India has in October 1998 notified a new policy on Beach Sand Minerals with a view to increase the rate of exploration of the minerals and also to attract more investment in this sector, both private and foreign along with latest technology for value addition within the country.

Setting up of atomic power project in Rajasthan

†2479. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey had been conducted at any place apart from Rawatbhata in Rajasthan for production of electricity from atomic power; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether on the basis of above survey, possibility of setting up atomic energy centre near Mahi Bajaj Sea in Banswada district had been expressed, if so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether the possibilities of conducting any survey for setting up atomic project station at any other place in Rajasthan is also being explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Site Selection Committee of the Department has investigated various sites in the country and submitted its report to the Department. No decision has been taken on the new sites for setting up new neclear power projects.

(b) Site Selection Committee of the Department has investigated Mahi Bajan Sea in Banswada District in addition to Raawatbhata in Rajasthan for setting a nuclear power project.

(c) No, Sir.

Allotment of coal to brick kilns

2480. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to allot coal to brick kilns all over the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.